

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10 INR-09 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 IO-03 DPW-01 EUR-10

RSR-01 RSC-01 /067 W

----- 123178

R 190306 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3389

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10954

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, X PLUS 141,
JUNE 18

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM DANANG JUNE 18
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE DANANG 0723

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

A. LEVEL OF ACTIVITY HAS DROPPED THROUGHOUT THE CORPS AREA.
REPORTED CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE CUT IN HALF TO 14, MADE UP OF
2 GROUND ATTACKS AND 10 ABFS (726 MORTAR ROUNDS) AND 2
HARASSMENTS.

4 ENGAGEMENTS WERE REFLECTED. FOR THE FIFTH STRAIGHT DAY NO
MAJOR INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS AND FOR
THE SECOND DAY THERE WAS NO FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRE REPORTED
FROM THAT AREA. MAJOR ACTIVITY REMAINS IN THE VICINITY OF THE
78 TH RANGER BN IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE, REPORTED BELOW. REGION-
WIDE CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 6 KIA, 1 MIA, 32 WIA; ENEMY 6 KIA.
FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 302 ROUNDS, ALL SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS.
THIS DOES NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE FIRING FROM TWO ARTILLERY PIECES
WITH THE 78 TH RANGERS WHICH HAVE BEEN FIRING COUNTER- BATTERY, AS
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YET UNREPORTED.

B. 78 TH RANGER BN REMAINS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE. I CORPS G-2 REPORTS THAT ENEMY UNITS ARE THE 10 TH SAPPER BN, 711 NVA DIVISION AND ELEMENTS OF THE DIVISION HEAVY WEAPONS BN. AT 0800 JUNE 17 2 SLICKS AND 2 GUNSHIPS WERE FIRED ON WHILE ATTEMPTING TO PERFORM MEDEVAC FOR AN ELEMENT OF THE 78 TH. ONE GUNSHIP WAS SHOT DOWN AT AT790345, CREW MEMBERS WERE RESCUED WITH 1 NCO WIA. FROM 1000 TO 2200 HOURS JUNE 17 3 RD CO 78 TH RANGERS CAME UNDER HEAVY ATTACK INCLUDING 500 MORTAR ROUNDS, FORCING IT TO WITHDRAW NORTH FROM ITS BASE DUI CHIEU (ZC212330). THIS UNIT WAS OUT OF CONTACT AS OF 0600 JUNE 18.

2. GVN MILITARY ACTIVITY:

FOLLOWING I CORPS MORNING BRIEFING CHIEF OF STAFF GAVE ACTING PRINCIPAL OFFICER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING ARVN IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6 OF JUNE 13 COMMUNIQUE. JUNE 17 HE HAD SAID THAT CORPS COMMANDER WAS ONLY ONE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE CONTACT WITH PRG. TODAY HE SAID DECISIONS ON WHO WOULD MAKE CONTACTS RESTS WITH GVN DELEGATION TO TPJMC AND NO ONE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE CONTACT WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF SAIGON.

3. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY:

I CORPS G-2 REPORTS THAT VIET CONG HEADQUARTERS IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE HAS INFORMED SUBORDINATE UNITS OF LIKELIHOOD THAT JMC HELICOPTERS WILL BE FLYING TO TRA MY BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE 22. UNITS WERE ORDERED NOT TO FIRE ON THOSE CHOPPERS OR OTHERWISE INTERFERE WITH THEIR LANDING AT TRA MY. I CORPS G-2 LATER DISCUSSED ITEM WITH ACTING PRINCIPAL OFFICER SUGGESTING THAT THIS MIGHT SIGNAL PRG INTENT TO PROVIDE ITS DELEGATION TO ICCS REGION II TPJMC FROM A PICK- UP POINT AT TRA MY.

4. ICCS:

THE ICCS TEAM FRO CHU LAI WAS SCHEDULED TO VISIT QUANG NGAI JUNE 17 TO INVESTIGATE THE JUNE 14 MINING OF A LAMBRETTA ON THE BINH SON- TRA BONG ROAD. ONE CIVILIAN WAS KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED IN THE INCIDENT, WHICH TOOK PLACE THE DAY AFTER SECTOR TRUCKS HAD RUN A SUCCESSFUL RESUPPLY CONVOY TO TRA BONG. CANDELS AND INDOELS CONDUCTED AN " OBSERVATION" AT THE SITE EARLIER IN THE WEEK.

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5. ACCOMODATION:

QUANG NGAI PROVINCE CHIEF COL NGO VAN LOI RECENTLY TOLD QUANG NGEX POLOFF THAT HE HOPES TO OBTAIN GOVERNMENT FUNDS TO EXPAND THE CINNAMON INDUSTRY IN TRA BONG DISTRICT DESPITE THE FACT THAT CINNAMON TRADE WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE LUCRATIVE SOURCE OF

REVENUE FOR PRG. PRG CONTROLS PRIMARY CINNAMON GROWING AREA IN
WESTERN TRA BONG, AND GVN OFFICIALS ARE AWARE THAT PRG TAXES BOTH
NONTAGNARD CINNAMON HARVESTERS AND MERCHANTS WHO TRANSPORT
CINNA-
MON TO LOWLANDS OVER BINH SON- TRA BONG ROAD. THEY NEVERTHELESS
BELIEVE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF CINNAMON MARKET TOO GREAT TO BE
IGNORED. TRA BONG CURRENTLY EXPORTS AVERAGE OF ONE TON OF
CINNAMON PER DAY. MERCHANTS PAY 500\$ VN PER KILO FOR CINNAMON
AT TRA BONG AND CAN SELL IT FOR AS MUCH AS 1,000\$ VN/ KILO IN THE
LOWLANDS. SIGNED THOMSEN UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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